

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reexamination of the present application.

Claims 194 and 205 have been amended, no claims have been cancelled and no new claims have been added. Support for the amendment to Claim 205 can be found on page 61, lines 15-20 of the specification as originally filed.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner agrees that the previous amendment to Claims 150 and 174 place them in condition for allowance, and that Claim 211 should have previously been indicated as allowable. The Examiner has also objected to Claims 204, 205 and 210 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but states they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 194, 196, 198-203 and 206-209 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Stopic et al. article (from Vol. 32 of the International Journal of Powder Metallurgy), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,429,657 by Glicksman et al., for reasons of record in the prior Office Action. The Examiner has also rejected Claim 195 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stopic et al. in view of Glicksman et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,784,686 by Meek et al. or U.S. Patent No. 5,064,464 by Sawada et al.


Applicants have amended independent Claim 194 to incorporate the limitation of Claim 205, namely that the liquid solution comprises a densification aid. Therefore, removal of these rejections with respect to Claim 194 and Claims 195, 196, 198-203 and 206-209 is requested.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation

would further prosecute and or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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